



eNews from Sen. Lisa Murkowski - November 16, 2007 - Vol. 3, Issue 16

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## Murkowski and Stevens Honor Military Families

This week, Senator Stevens and I won final passage of a resolution recognizing and thanking military families for the tremendous sacrifices and contributions they have made to the nation.

Military families bear a profound burden when their loved ones are away defending our country. They serve their nation every bit as much as their loved ones do. I deeply appreciate the contributions and sacrifices they make to help keep our soldiers strong and our nation safe. It is particularly important to let them know now, with the holiday season approaching, that we stand behind them.

There are over three million immediate family members of individuals serving in the Armed Forces. The contribution made by military families cannot be overestimated – they have been a bedrock of support for the Armed Forces for over 230 years. They have provided essential personal and emotional support to help sustain our soldiers throughout the course of their service. Our resolution urges the people of the United States to thank military families for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made.



Senator Murkowski attended a welcome home ceremony for members of the Alaska National Guard in Kenai where she thanked families for their service.

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## **Murkowski Supports Head Start**

Earlier this week, I joined my colleagues in the Senate in passing the conference report to the Head Start School Readiness Act. Head Start prepares low-income children for school by providing comprehensive, early childhood development services including educational, health, nutritional and social activities.

The Head Start program is an important part of our children's educational development. This legislation includes many priorities of Alaska Head Start Directors. It helps ensure that Alaskan children are ready to succeed in school, that their parents have the skills they need to help their children learn, and that children in even the most remote communities have health and nutrition services.

The Head Start for School Readiness Act authorizes 16 programs in Alaska from Nome to Anchorage. The conference report authorizes funding of \$7.35 billion in FY08, as well as increases for the four years thereafter. The bill expands eligibility for Head Start, allowing children whose parents earn 130 percent above poverty level to enroll. The legislation also maintains local control over Head Start programs, guaranteeing that communities may individually assess the best way to meet their unique needs.

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## **Alaska Congressional Delegation Helps Override Veto of Water Resources Development Act**

Last week both the House and Senate voted to override President Bush's veto of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). All three members of the Alaska delegation supported the veto override helping the act become law.

Congress authorizes specific Army Corps of Engineers projects in WRDA, including studies, before appropriating funds to them. Congress has not completed a WRDA since 2000. Passage of a Water Resources bill is long overdue. I applaud my fellow members of Congress for recognizing the importance of this legislation so that we can finally appropriate funds for critical infrastructure projects in Alaska and across the country.

For a list of projects WRDA authorizes in Alaska click [here](#).



WRDA includes authorization for a new small boat harbor in Valdez

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### Access Recent Speeches by Senator Murkowski on the Web

As always, you can visit my website to [download recent speeches](#). Over the past week I addressed the Alaska Miners Association, a *Washington Post* panel on energy policy and made the keynote address at the Veteran's and Remembrance Day ceremony at Fort Richardson.

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### Alaska Salmon Helps Fight Global Hunger

The United States Department of Agriculture recently purchased 300 tons of Alaskan pink salmon to feed poor people worldwide. In addition USDA has committed to purchase another 300 tons in the near future.

I am proud of the role that Alaskan products have in meeting the needs of those less fortunate than us across the globe. Currently the salmon is feeding people in Cambodia and Guatemala and there is a pilot program being proposed to help those with AIDS. I want to thank Alaskan fishermen and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute for their efforts in making this purchase possible.





Alaskan fishermen are helping fight world hunger.

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### **IRS Has Refunds for 450 Alaska Taxpayers Whose Refund Checks Could Not Be Delivered**

An average refund of \$963 is waiting for 450 Alaska taxpayers whose refund checks were returned to the Internal Revenue Service as undeliverable. The checks, worth a total of over \$433,000 can be claimed as soon as their owners update their addresses with the IRS. In some cases, a taxpayer has more than one check waiting.

Taxpayers can use the "[Where's My Refund?](#)" feature on the home page of the IRS.gov Web site to learn the status of their refunds. To use it, a taxpayer must enter a Social Security number, filing status (such as single or married filing jointly) and the refund amount shown on the taxpayer's 2006 tax return. When the information is submitted, "Where's My Refund?" will display the status of a refund and, in some cases, provide instructions on how to resolve potential account issues. Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

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### **November 17 is National Adoption Day**

Tomorrow is National Adoption Day, when an unprecedented number of courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all families that adopt.

There are approximately 513,000 foster care children in the United States, and 114,000 of them are waiting for adoption. Since 1987, the number of children in foster care has nearly doubled, and the average time a child remains in foster care has lengthened to nearly three years. Each year, approximately 24,000 children in foster care will age out of the system without ever being placed with a permanent family.

National Adoption Day events are sponsored by a coalition dedicated to improving the lives of children, including The Alliance for Children's Rights, Casey Family Services, Children's Action Network, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Dave Thomas Foundation

for Adoption, and Freddie Mac Foundation.  
For more information visit [www.nationaladoptionday.org](http://www.nationaladoptionday.org).

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Senator Murkowski and Keith Colburn, Captain of the Wizard,  
a crab boat featured in the reality show The Deadliest Catch.

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